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General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/37. It discusses recent trends in the further strengthening within the United Nations of the relationship between disarmament and development. In addition, the report contains information received from Governments on the subject.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 68/37, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", the Assembly stressed the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development, and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.[1]

2. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. Furthermore, in paragraph 8 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

3. On 28 February 2014, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States seeking their views. At the time of writing, replies had been received from the following Member States: Albania, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Iraq, Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Spain and Ukraine. This information is contained in section III below.

II. Further strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship

4. The United Nations continues to take actions to implement the recommendations contained in key documents in the area of disarmament and development, including the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, and the 2004 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development.[2]

5. In recent years, the United Nations has increasingly broadened the scope of disarmament and arms regulation efforts to address the social and economic impact of the use of conventional weapons, their proliferation and accumulation, and the illicit trade in particular in small arms.

6. The landmark Arms Trade Treaty, adopted in April 2013, explicitly acknowledges the interlinkage between development, peace and security and human rights, as well as the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms. The Treaty covers heavy conventional weapons as well as small arms and light weapons. Importantly, ammunition and parts and components of the above-mentioned categories are covered by the Treaty as well. In addition to prohibiting irresponsible arms

[1] See *Report of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, New York, 24 August-11 September 1987* (A/CONF/130/39).

[2] See A/59/119.

transfers, it has extensive provisions on preventing the diversion of weapons into illicit markets. Once the Arms Trade Treaty enters into force, it will provide a framework for international cooperation and capacity-building regarding the prevention of diversion and questionable transfers, ranging from improved legislation and control procedures, to better stockpile management.

7. In his latest report to the Security Council on the issue of small arms (S/2013/503), the Secretary-General focused on the situation in Africa. In particular, he underlined the increased vulnerability of a range of States in the region as a result of armed conflict, societal upheaval, a lack of governmental control over army and police depots, terrorist activities, trafficking and related organized crime — stressing that activities of armed groups wielding illegal weapons continue to siphon off resources that could otherwise be devoted to sustainable development.

8. In their fight against illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, Member States continue to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.[3] The 2012 outcome document of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action[4] — rich in development-related themes such as sustainable development, international cooperation and assistance — guided States' efforts during the past two years. In 2014, States considered progress made in implementation of the Programme of Action at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, held in New York from 16 to 20 June, with a strong emphasis on assistance and capacity-building.

9. Given the direct impact that armed violence can have on achieving agreed goals pertaining to development, a goal related to peace and security needs to be high on the agenda when looking ahead towards the post-2015 development framework. In this regard, it is significant that the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda identified peace and good governance among the five transformative shifts that need to drive the post-2015 development agenda.[5]

10. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, a voluntary transparency instrument established in 1981, by which Member States exchange information related to their military expenditures. This instrument continues to be of value in providing a basis for discussions on levels of military spending, underscoring the key principle of the Charter of the United Nations of the "least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources".

11. The United Nations effectively coordinates its activities related to disarmament and arms regulation through various inter-departmental mechanisms, which include in their activities addressing social and economic impacts of such weapons through victim assistance, reintegration and rehabilitation, and by promoting employment. These mechanisms include the Coordinating Action on Small Arms, the United Nations Mine Action Team and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

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[3] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[4] A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annex I.

[5] See A/67/890.

III. Information received from Governments

Albania

[Original: English]
[10 May 2014]

The main positive impact of Albania's disarmament efforts over the past years has been mainly on human and environmental security. The reduction of large stockpiles of unstable ammunition as well as of small arms and light weapons has contributed to a consistently decreased number of accidents related to ammunition and small arms and light weapons involving civilians throughout the country.

In addition, as a result of the reduction and destruction of these stockpiles, a considerable number of military storage facilities which used to be overloaded with ammunition, thus representing a threat for the nearby communities and an obstacle for the development of the surrounding area, have been now closed and certified as threat-free. Moreover, the majority of these previous ammunition storages can be now made available for civil use and the support of the development of the respective communities.

Several ammunition and weapons destruction projects have been carried out in the former military factories located in Mjekes, Polican and Gramsh through industrial dismantling methods and with the support of several international donors. The funding support provided through these projects has improved the industrial capacities for these factories and has provided short- to medium-term employment to local people in areas where unemployment rates are quite high.

As a result of the UXO clearance project in the Gerdec area carried out by the Albanian Armed Forces in cooperation with international organizations, the houses, schools and other public institutions that were destroyed during the tragic explosion could be rebuilt and become operative again.

Albania's concentrated disarmament efforts have served also to reconfirm its strong and serious commitment to serve as a peace factor in the region and beyond.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[8 May 2014]

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs and has the honour to refer to resolution 68/37, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

In this regard, the Argentine Republic has been undergoing a process of profound change in which special emphasis has been placed on the social dimension, but which is part of an overarching agenda of using the exercise of political power as a fundamental tool for implementing real change, with the active engagement of individuals and organizations.

The country now has a political, social and economic agenda that recognizes all Argentines as persons with full legal (human) rights and offers them the prospect of a life of inclusion and social justice; it is a national people's agenda for

increasing production and reducing debt through an active, engaged and dynamic State.

The restoration and expansion of rights, the generation and protection of employment and the development of domestic production are the pillars of this process of change, in which economic policy is inseparable from social policy. Economic growth, together with policy measures for equitable redistribution, have enabled the Argentine State to make progress in strengthening rights for all while seeking to ensure equal opportunity through active policies of social protection and empowerment.

One example of this is the extension of rights through the universalization of the system for the protection of children, adolescents and pregnant women and the system of pensions for older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as social security portability. Measures are also being taken to provide incentives for consumption in the domestic market as a means of boosting demand in order to generate employment; these are fundamental pillars of the Argentine development model.

Against this backdrop, the Argentine Republic's defence policy is based on a model that combines self-reliance with cooperation: it seeks to achieve sufficient self-defence capacity while at the same time engaging in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with a view to contributing to a regional and, where possible, global environment in which mutual trust and transparency set the stage for enhanced protection of national interests and a climate of freedom, peace and justice, thereby strengthening institutions and international law.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2014]

As Chile is not involved in an arms race requiring exceptional outlays, its military expenditure is determined by the proposals put forward and adopted each year under the Public Sector Budget Act. Military expenditure is divided into three categories: personnel, operations and procurement.

In the field of defence, the National Demining Commission appears to be the organization that best embodies the principle set out in resolution 68/37, as its demining operations have made the areas declared free of anti-personnel mines available for a variety of uses. This facilitates the implementation of various activities for the development of communities or settlements, in accordance with the plans adopted by Governments in the region.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[31 March 2014]

As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/68/119), "progress in disarmament can create a conducive environment for development, and vice versa .... While arms in themselves may not be the root cause of violence and conflict, their spread and easy

availability, and the increased likelihood of their diversion and misuse, can endanger stability and welfare as well as diminish investors' confidence and lead to social inequality".

Colombia recognizes that the majority of weapon fatalities around the world can be traced to conventional arms, which facilitate the commission of offences and situations of violence associated with phenomena such as the world drug problem, terrorism and transnational organized crime, undermining development and creating humanitarian issues.

Colombia hails the recent adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty as a breakthrough in efforts to control the trade in conventional arms, given that it is the first legally binding instrument to establish common standards for the international transfer of arms of this type.

Bearing in mind the principles on which the Arms Trade Treaty is based, and considering that the past absence of such principles in the international legal order created situations in which legally purchased arms were diverted to the illicit market, to the detriment of many countries around the world, including Colombia, our country signed the Treaty on 24 September 2013.

At the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Colombia introduced, along with South Africa and Japan, resolution 68/48, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". The resolution underlines the fact that the illicit trade in and spread of small arms and light weapons have serious humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and pose a threat to international peace, security, stability and development.

It should be noted that in 2008, Colombia endorsed the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, expressing the view that armed violence and development are linked in a vicious circle: armed violence entails significant costs to the country and delays its development, while impediments to development and situations of poverty and exclusion are drivers of armed violence.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[3 April 2014]

In today's international system, marked by ever-widening inequalities, the arms race is consuming many of the resources that could and should be used for economic development, poverty and hunger reduction, health care, job creation, education and increased access to clean air and drinking water.

There is an urgent need to implement practical measures to redirect the resources now being used for military purposes towards development activities. While global military expenditure totalled $1.756 trillion in 2012, or 2.5 per cent of global gross domestic product, more than 842 million people suffer from hunger, according to statistics from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In 2012, worldwide spending on armaments was 340 times the biennial budget of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The resources now being spent on armaments could be used, for example, to help countries reach the ostensibly unattainable Millennium Development Goals.

For the cost of a single nuclear weapon, medical care could be provided to 36,000 people. Cuba is in favour of the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and calls for significant advances in nuclear disarmament in order to prevent the continued waste of enormous amounts of resources in this area. The resources now being used to build up nuclear arsenals should be used instead for the benefit of humanity and the eradication of poverty.

Cuba urges all countries to contribute effectively to general and complete disarmament under strict international control. In its view, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, was a concrete step forward on the necessary road towards nuclear disarmament.

Resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to development, particularly in the least developed countries, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in 1986.

Cuba reiterates its proposal that half of current military expenditure be allocated to an international United Nations-managed fund established for that purpose. Such a fund should be in a position to ensure sustainable socioeconomic development and help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations should play a central role in highlighting the interrelationship between disarmament and development, primarily in the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The action programme envisages the adoption of measures to reduce the level and magnitude of military expenditures and reallocate those resources for social and economic development in the developing countries, and to review issues related to the conversion of military industry to civilian production.

The Government and people of Cuba are committed to the implementation of that action programme. The country's Revolutionary Armed Forces have placed their military resources and capabilities at the service of Cuba's economic and social development whenever necessary, including military units and camps, military transportation and aircraft, engineering resources, medical services and other logistical resources. Relevant examples include the relocation of the "Granma" Naval Academy so that its former premises could accommodate the Latin American School of Medicine; the provision of military personnel and fumigation equipment for the campaign to eradicate disease vectors; the support provided for food production; and the services offered by military construction companies for the building of schools, canals, reservoirs, roads and natural disaster evacuation routes.

Cuba denounces the fact that a naval base that has been turned into a detention and torture centre is located on a part of Cuban territory that is illegally occupied by the United States of America. The Guantánamo military base must be closed immediately and the territory returned to its rightful owner, the Cuban people, so that it may be used for the implementation of economic and social development projects.

The international community should take practical steps to ensure that the resources now being used for military purposes are reallocated to development activities.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2014]

The Republic of Iraq affirms that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative of both nations and peoples. The Republic of Iraq is convinced that the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding international cooperation can contribute to solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to strengthening the culture of peace and disarmament.

International peace and security are fundamental elements in the realization of the right to development. In the final document of its tenth special session, the General Assembly affirmed that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development, and that progress in the former would help greatly in the realization of the latter. Resources released as a result of the implementation of disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and the well-being of all peoples, especially the peoples of developing countries.

The Republic of Iraq affirms the need for a multilateral approach to issues relating to disarmament and development. It believes that the United Nations and the relevant international organizations have a vital role to play in that area.

Iraq believes that economic, social, cultural and technical cooperation among States will help to strengthen the relations among them, ensuring that any problems between them will disappear or will, at least, be capable of resolution by peaceful means. The goals of development and stronger inter-State relations should therefore be considered complementary to the purposes and principles for which international organizations are striving, and will ultimately help to ensure that resources are employed in the service of development instead of being wasted on armaments. This, in turn, would be conducive to regional and international peace and security.

Efforts must be made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by encouraging the international community to adopt and apply unilateral, bilateral and multilateral disarmament measures, which would inevitably contribute to the realization of those Goals. Reallocating some of the resources that are currently being spent on armaments and military forces to development would result in significant progress towards achieving the Goals.

In that regard, the Republic of Iraq reaffirms the position that the resources of developing countries should not be spent on armaments at a time when they are needed for social and economic development. The peaceful settlement of disputes, the spread of peace and democracy, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and an end to the arms race would all help to leverage resources for development.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[13 June 2014]

Every year, some $1.739 trillion is spent on conventional and nuclear weapons worldwide. A number of countries doubled their military expenditures in 2013, while keeping their development and disarmament funding unchanged.

Mexico is aware that the objectives of peace and security are closely related to human development and that there is a consequent need for balance between the resources allocated to military expenditure and those allocated to development. It has accordingly implemented the following initiatives:

- "Weapons exchange": civilians voluntarily surrender their weapons in exchange for a reward (cash, groceries or household appliances). Between 1 January and 31 December 2013, 30,993 firearms, 2,297 grenades and 778,546 cartridges were collected.
- "Arms register": the aim of this register is to regulate and strictly control these items, in accordance with the Federal Firearms and Explosives Act, and to prevent them from being diverted to the illicit market. Between 1 January and 31 December 2013, 9,474 firearms, 1,203 grenades and 1,292,711 cartridges were registered.
- Pursuant to the National Development Plan 2013-2018, action is being taken to promote development in order to combat and prevent crime and violence.
- Mexico is engaged in all multilateral efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament, reduce worldwide spending on armaments and encourage the channelling of more resources to development, in line with the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, it is participating in the design of the new post-2015 development agenda, seeking to ensure that it includes clear and measurable targets.
- In strict compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, Mexico promotes cooperation in activities relating to disarmament and transparency in military expenditures. In this respect, it reports annually on its military expenditure.
- Mexico takes part in international meetings aimed at mitigating the effects of nuclear and conventional weapons, and in meetings on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[23 May 2014]

Panama has incorporated into its legislation the General Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials Act; the law regulating the procedure for issuing permits to carry firearms; and the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials. Among other measures, it has implemented an arms-for-food-and-medicine programme since 2010, in order to take illegal small arms and ammunition off the streets.

The Constitution of the Republic of Panama, in its article 312, provides that only the Government may possess weapons; for any other activity, the prior permission of the executive branch is required. The duty to ensure public safety is supported by arms prevention and eradication provisions and controls that have had an effect on the country's development, enabling it to position itself in a clear, coherent manner vis-à-vis the international community.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[14 May 2014]

International instruments

Portugal is party to all relevant disarmament conventions, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention on Landmines) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which establish the obligation of States parties to destroy their existing stockpiles of landmines and cluster munitions, and also to conduct clearance activities in mined areas under their jurisdiction. In fact, the aforementioned weapons gravely hinder the economic and social development of affected communities by preventing access to farmland, pastures, as well as to other vital resources. Portugal is also party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

As one of the coordinators for the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Portugal fully engaged, in 2012 and 2013, with all United Nations Member States in order to promote this landmark Convention, which is still the sole multilateral instrument that aims at putting an end to the civilian suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions. Portugal has carried out a large number of outreach activities to promote the Convention.

Portugal regrets that the international community has so far been unable to reach consensus on a protocol regarding mines other than anti-personnel landmines in the context of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Mines other than anti-personnel landmines, by blocking roads and general access to and from certain areas, prevent effective humanitarian action on the ground. Furthermore, mines other than anti-personnel landmines may lead to the isolation of populations, hampering the development of State infrastructures in the affected regions and thus undermining State authority.

Assistance

In 2012, Portugal continued its cooperation with Mozambique regarding landmine clearance and disposal, namely by granting access to maps and relevant cartography, of which copies were made available to the authorities of Mozambique.

In this context, a delegation of Mozambique from the National Demining Institute visited the archives of the Portuguese Ministry of National Defence, as well as the Tropical Research Institute, a research and development public institution which holds a vast cartographic archive (Overseas Historical Archive).

In June 2014, Portugal participated in the Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention on Landmines that was held in Maputo, Mozambique, and was invited to be a Friend of the Presidency. In this capacity, Portugal was requested to provide some contributions and sent some materials in the area of logistics support (informatics). On the other hand, Portugal is developing a project for assistance to Mozambique in the area of risk education, in cooperation with the Mozambique authorities.

Furthermore, in the past, Portugal has also provided technical assistance in the field of mine detection and clearance, in the framework of the Multinational Military Implementation Force in Bosnia and the International Security Force in Kosovo and training in demining activities in Guinea-Bissau, and between 2007 and 2013, Portugal invested a total sum of €23,635 in anti-personnel mine clearance projects in Angola and other developing countries.

Portugal is also involved in the mine action project in Libya with its 5+5 initiative partners.

Portugal can provide assistance upon request and depending on the availability of adequate funding. The Portuguese Armed Forces' experts are qualified in mine detection and clearance. The equipment used in mine detection and clearance includes electronic search means, EOD/IEDD operator suits, EOD/IEDD X-ray (real time), DEARMER, mechanical devices, handheld metal and multi-sensor systems.

Portugal signed a country programme framework with the International Atomic Energy Agency in which cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries is included as a development cooperation measure regarding non-proliferation and disarmament.

On different occasions, Portugal has raised through bilateral contacts the issue of disarmament as an element that should be taken into account in development strategies.

National implementation

Portugal adopted, in 2009, the "National Strategy for Security and Development". This Strategy focuses on coherence and efficiency, and ensures better coordination of all Portuguese programmes. The Strategy also promotes a broader approach and reinforces the priority of human security as a major goal in the Portuguese cooperation policy.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[25 April 2014]

The State of Qatar has acceded to all the treaties on weapons of mass destruction. Periodically, through the Doha Regional Centre for Training on Conventions Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction, it holds meetings and workshops at all levels to spread awareness of the danger of weapons of mass destruction. The State of Qatar possesses only conventional weapons, and only to the extent that they are necessary for its security in the light of circumstances in the surrounding region. Weapons expenditures represent only a small portion of the public budget. Qatar focuses on enhancing all areas that can benefit its citizens, including health, education, culture and development projects to serve future generations. Development and infrastructure projects of all types receive due care and attention.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[1 May 2014]

Spain fully acknowledges the need to take effective action linking disarmament and development, to ensure that measures in these two areas are carried out in parallel but with mutually reinforcing effects.

Spain has historically reaffirmed its strong commitment to disarmament and development by adopting legislative and operational measures and promoting active disarmament and development policies in other parts of the world.

Domestically, Spain has one of the world's most advanced pieces of legislation in the field of disarmament, which exceeds the requirements set out in the international treaties and commitments by which Spain is bound.

Internationally, Spain has been doing its utmost to help in an efficient and coordinated manner to address the challenge posed by critical development issues in relation to the adoption of disarmament measures. This approach is reflected clearly in Spain's position on cooperation with regard to non-proliferation and disarmament concerning weapons of mass destruction, the prohibition and total elimination of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other weapons with similar effects.

Apart from these initiatives, and strictly in line with its development assistance policy, Spain continues to promote humanitarian mine clearance efforts and multilateral actions to develop technologies for the location, deactivation and destruction of mines currently deployed in other countries. It also continues to provide support and assistance for the training of experts in demining, through the International Demining Centre and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization centre of excellence in Spain.

In addition, in order to control arms trafficking, Spain has created a safeguard system whereby the Interministerial Regulatory Board for External Trade in Defence-related and Dual-use Materials conducts compulsory and binding reviews of applications for administrative authorization to trade in defence-related and dual-use materials.

Lastly, with regard to its foreign operations, Spain devotes significant military resources, both human and technical, to the conduct of disarmament, peacekeeping and assistance missions throughout the world.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[15 May 2014]

As a non-nuclear-weapon State, Ukraine has continued to consistently advocate the further strengthening of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, particularly through the United Nations. Ukraine firmly believes that the United Nations has a central role to play in collective efforts to maintain peace, ensure the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and tackle new threats and challenges.

Ukraine fully shares the universal conviction on which General Assembly resolution 68/37 is based: that international cooperation and joint efforts to make further progress in respect of disarmament and arms limitation should further the goals of economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries.

Regarding Ukraine's national experience in implementing the above-mentioned resolution, it should be noted that, under the country's 2014 State Budget Act, 50 per cent of the resources derived from the disposal of surplus armaments and military and specialized technology of the armed forces is to be allocated to the general fund of the State budget, while the other 50 per cent is to be allocated to the special fund of the Ministry of Defence to address social issues regarding the implementation of the comprehensive State programme to provide housing for members of the Ukrainian armed forces and their families.

Between January and April 2014, the special fund of the Ministry of Defence to finance the construction or purchase of housing for members of the Ukrainian armed forces received 24.9 million hryvnias from the disposal of surplus armaments and military and specialized technology of the armed forces.

With respect to past experience, it may be noted that as early as 1994, under the trilateral arrangements agreed upon among Ukraine, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, this last country undertook to provide Ukraine with fuel assemblies in connection with the removal of strategic nuclear warheads from Ukrainian territory. Under the arrangements concluded in this regard, it was agreed that, with a view to ensuring nuclear and environmental safety, the parties would cooperate in servicing and eliminating the nuclear warheads located in Ukrainian territory until the last such warhead had been removed.

Moreover, in addition to those arrangements, agreement was reached on two important issues: the time frame for the removal of all nuclear warheads from Ukrainian territory, and mechanisms for providing compensation for the tactical nuclear weapons that were removed. In particular, the parties undertook to complete the process of removing strategic nuclear warheads from Ukraine by June 1996. Article 2 of the annex to the agreement indicated that the Russian Federation would write off part of the public debt of Ukraine, amounting to $400-520 million, in connection with the removal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory in 1991 and 1992.